

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 15105 SENT SECSTATE INFO EC BRUSSELS

MOSCOW TOKYO CANBERRA OTTAWA NEW DELHI CAIRO BRASILIA MTN GENEVA

DATED SEPT 30.

QUOTE

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MOSCOW FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: IWC PREP GROUP - THIRD SESSION - SEPTEMBER 30

REF: LONDON 15027

1. SEPTEMBER 30 MEETING DEVOTED TO DETAILED DISCUSSION
OF FOUR SECRETARIAT-PREPARED DOCUMENTS ON: RESERVE
STOCK PROVISIONS, ROLE OF PRICE IN NEW AGREEMENT, TWO-
TIER PRICING (TO BENEFIT LDCS), POSSIBLE ELEMENTS
OF NEW AGREEMENT. MOST DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON FIRST TWO
PAPERS. EGYPT AND INDIA TRIED PROMOTE TWO-TIER PRICING
FOR BENEFIT OF LDCS BUT ONLY ARGENTINA RESPONDED TO
INDICATE OBJECTION. OVERALL, DISCUSSION BROKE NO NEW
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GROUND BUT GAVE OTHER DELEGATIONS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE

EITHER IN THEORIZING ABOUT DIFFERENTIATING AMONG ELEMENTS OF TOTAL GRAIN STOCKS (I.E., WORKING STOCKS, RESERVES, FULL STOCKS) OR IN RE-EMPHASIZING THEIR INTEREST IN INCORPORATING PRICE OBJECTIVES INTO NEW GRAINS AGREEMENT. IT IS CLEAR THAT MOST MEMBERS OF PREP GROUP ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO PRICE PROVISIONS.

2. FINAL ITEM, REACHED IN LATE AFTERNOON, WAS SCHEDULING OF NEXT PREP GROUP MEETING. US STRONGLY ARGUED FOR SCHEDULING FOURTH SESSION IN LATE OCTOBER, WITH POSSIBLE FIFTH SESSION IN LATE NOVEMBER, SO THAT A RECOMMENDATION TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS EARLY IN 1976 COULD BE CONSIDERED AT DECEMBER MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL. US PROPOSAL SUPPORTED BY AUSTRALIA, CANADA, USSR AND ARGENTINA. IN SUGGESTING END OCTOBER MEETING, USSR DEL CLEARLY INDICATED THEY FOUND ANOTHER MEETING NECESSARY BEFORE THERE COULD BE CONSIDERATION OF ISSUE BY COUNCIL. AUSTRALIAN AND CANADIAN SUPPORT CONDITIONED, HOWEVER, ON US TAKING ACCOUNT, IN FURTHER WORK ON ITS PROPOSAL, OF PREP GROUP DISCUSSION -- IN PARTICULAR TO IDENTIFY WHAT RELATIONSHIP RESERVES SCHEME WOULD BEAR TO A NEW GRAINS (OR WHEAT) AGREEMENT AND TO EXPOSE OR SUPPORT ITS THINKING MORE FULLY ON KEY ELEMENTS OF STOCK SIZE, DISTRIBUTION OF RESERVE HOLDINGS AND TRIGGER MECHANISM. US DEL RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD REVIEW PAPER IN LIGHT OF DISCUSSION, BUT COULD NOT BE COMMITTED TO MAKING PARTICULAR REVISIONS, SINCE SOME OF KEY ISSUES COULD ONLY BE RESOLVED IN FURTHER DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATION. THIS REPLY WAS NOT CHALLENGED.

3. EC REP (JACQUOT), WHO HAD PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGED HE WAS ACTING ON EXPRESS INSTRUCTIONS FROM DIRGEN AGRICULTURE RABOT, SAID THAT HE COULD NOT TAKE POSITION ON FURTHER MEETING UNTIL ONE DELEGATION (I.E., US) INDICATED THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO PURSUE MORE THAN A RESERVES PROPOSAL. (IN OTHER WORDS, THAT US COMMIT ITSELF TO WORK TOWARD A NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSING PRICES, STOCK, ETC.). US DEL ASKED EC TO CONFIRM HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT EC WAS NOW MAKING PROGRESS ON FOOD SECURITY CONTINGENT ON A PRICE AGREEMENT FOR WHEAT. JACQUOT DID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY, SAYING THAT IT WAS ERRONEOUS FOR US TO TRY TO INTERPRET ENTIRE PURPOSE OF WORK UNDER IWC AS DIRECTED TOWARD FORMATION OF RESERVES SYSTEM WHEN TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PREP GROUP WERE TO EXPLORE BASES FOR NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT, WHICH (IN EC VIEW) MUST INCLUDE PRICE PROVISIONS.

4. PN FURTHER INTERVENTION, JACQUOT INTRODUCED ADDITIONAL

CONDITION OF PROGRESS IN MTN GRAINS MEETING OCT. 20
BEFORE RESUMING WORK OF PREP GROUP. US DEL REPLIED
THAT SUCH LINKAGE NOT ACCEPTABLE BASIS FOR PROGRESS.

5. MEETING CLOSED WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY (AS BEFORE) WOULD CONVENE MEETING FOR LATE
OCTOBER IF A CONSENSUS COULD BE DEVELOPED, DURING COURSE
OF HIS CONSULTATIONS, WITH FOOTNOTE THAT ARRANGEMENTS
WOULD NEED TO BE CONFIRMED NOT LATER THAN OCTOBER 15.

RICHARDSON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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